



09/189,043

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Rocklage	Examiner:	Hartley, M.
Serial No.:	09/189,043	Group Art Unit:	1619
Filing Date:	November 9, 1998	Docket No.:	1897
Title	Method of Perfusion Imaging		

Date of Deposit: 11/6/02

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Signature:

Printed Name: Robert C. Beck

RESPONSE AND ADDITIONAL ARGUMENTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

This is responsive to the outstanding Office Action mailed May 6, 2002, and identified as paper number 16. A Request for Continued Examination is sought.

Reconsideration of the existing claims and allowance of this application is respectfully solicited in view of the following remarks, based upon the new rejection.

REMARKS

It is the contention of the Examiner that Cacheris and Belliveau teach both the injection of contrast agent and high-speed imaging, and that the linking reference Villringer teaches that perfusion is directly related to blood flow.

The claim however calls for a sequence or series of temporily spaced images each of which taken with a fast imaging sequence with the appropriate and identified contrast agent.

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In Applicant's view Belliveau teaches not a method of using sequential images to determine blood flow, but rather the use of a single image where within a single image one can determine differences in perfusion and/or blood flow. Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to 22-29 of column 1 in the Introduction section. Applicant submits that the teaching of Belliveau is to determine blood flow with a single image.

Villringer is a very interesting and complex reference which proposes the use of special contrast agents to image the brain because these contrast agents exhibit different "kinetics" than previous MR contrast agents. The difference in kinetics permits exploration of breakdown in the blood brain barrier. This is set forth in the second paragraph of page 173 of the reference. It is Applicant's understanding of this reference that within a single image the presence or absence of contrast agent outside of the blood vessels can be used to image stroke.

In Applicant's view neither reference teaches the required temporally spaced images taken by fast imaging procedures with an appropriate contrast agent to indicate degrees of blood-flow abnormality.

CONCLUSION

All of the claims remaining in this application should now be seen to be in condition for allowance. The prompt issuance of a notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
BRESAGEN, INC.
By its attorneys:

Date: 11/6/02

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